

## **ARPA FAQs: IMPROVING DRINKING WATER, WASTEWATER, AND STORMWATER SYSTEMS IN MANUFACTURED HOME COMMUNITIES (MHCs)**

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

### **Who are eligible applicants?**

Individuals or groups that live in or own MHCs with a need for water infrastructure projects related to drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, and/or drainage issues. MHCs can be cooperative/resident owned, non-profit, or privately owned.

### **What is the maximum and minimum awards?**

- Needs Assessment Grant: Minimum award is \$10,000 per MHC and maximum award is \$75,000 per MHC
- Technical Assistance and Permitting Grant: Minimum award is \$10,000 per MHC and maximum award is \$75,000 per MHC
- Construction Grant: Minimum award is \$25,000 per MHC and maximum award is \$1.25million per MHC

### **Do local ARPA funds have to be included in the project? If so, at what level and when do they need to enter the project – seed or close?**

There is no requirement to use local ARPA funds on these projects.

### **How does this funding interact with the 3 Acre compliance funds available? For example, could a MHP use both the ARPA pots (3-acre & this one) for a larger, more comprehensive project?**

Both MHC and 3-Acre funding buckets are available through ARPA, but they are separate programs that address different problems. If you have a 3-Acre compliance issue, it may be best to apply for 3-Acre funding. However, if there is also a stormwater/drainage issue on the MHC site that cannot be fully addressed through 3-Acre compliance measures, funding from this grant may be the best source of funding.

### **Could you please confirm the max percentage of total project cost that grants would cover for each stage of the process (if not 100%)?**

ARPA funds could cover 100% of needs assessment or project cost up to the maximum amount listed above, but it does not need to be 100% of total cost if you have already secured other funding. ARPA funds could be used to fill gaps in current funding as needed.

### **Can this be done retroactively for already installed projects?**

No, retroactive payments for already installed MHC projects is not available.

### **How will you look at projects that are currently in the design phase or being permitted due to multiple ANR violation citations?**

This may be used in scoring-based application criteria. Grants can be awarded to MHCs in

different stages of phase design and permitting. Priority may be given to projects with current ANR violations.

**Will you be working with practitioners and other housing funding agencies like VHFA to gain input into how to underwrite these projects?**

EAO will be working with multiple stakeholders and nonprofit groups, including but not limited to Vermont Housing Finance Agency, Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Vermont Housing & Conservation Board, and USDA Rural Development to gain insights and collaborate on shared goals.

**How will you look at private v. nonprofit/co-op owned parks in terms of underwriting owner's draw/profit v. returning all of fund balance to reserves?**

Our main goal is to help Vermonters in need, including residents that live in for-profit parks. Regardless of park status, there are unmet needs in these communities and our priority is to help those most in need.

**Would you entertain one application for a needs assessment in multiple parks owned by a single entity, or would you require separate applications?**

The grants are awarded to individual communities based on their specific issues and needs. Separate applications for each MHC will be required because the water/wastewater needs would be different for each community and would need to be evaluated separately.

**If you secure ARPA funding does this mean that there is someone from the Agency who can help facilitate permit requirements with the agency to implement the project?**

Yes, there is an ARPA dedicated staff member for this initiative as well as staff members in the Environmental Assistance Office that can address your permitting questions.

**Can you help with what our specific next step and timeline should be if we are interested in submitting a grant application?**

1. Sign up for e-mail mailing list.
2. Reach out to the MHC community you live in/ work with to let them know about the funding.
3. Start to think about your projects and types of grant you need to apply for.

**How realistic is the timeline if you do not have an application or list of priorities yet?**

Our goal is to have everything ready for the upcoming construction season. Applications will be online by the end of February/March. Scoring and selection will occur in March-April and awards will be granted in May/June. We will be bringing on new staff to help speed up process.

**If we're on the list, will we be notified when criteria have been set and application process is ready?**

Yes, if you are on the list, we will update you on any new updates and the application process.